



Prayer points – September 2026

Season of Creation

Since the 8th century, the [Byzantine tradition has marked God's creation of the world – and the start of the liturgical year – on the 1st of September](#). Now [many churches observe 1 September as the Feast of Creation in Christ](#) (or [World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)), start of the Season of Creation. As we pray on this day, we give thanks for God's gifts. We pray that this season may be a time when churches experience spiritual renewal and seek God's guidance and grace to work for renewal and restoration of the created world. The Season of Creation theme this year is Living Water, and the 'Living Water' [prayer](#) will form the framework for our prayer points.

"Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love." As we begin our prayers, we recollect our baptism. Where did the waters come from? What has baptism meant to us? We give thanks for the baptism water and for the gift of baptism in Christ. We consider, too, the water around us now. We give thanks for small ponds and streams, and for larger rivers, lakes and oceans.

Recognising the gift

"Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity." All too often, the gifts of Creation are treated as goods to be exploited, frequently in ways that make the wealthy wealthier and leave people who are poorer unable to meet their basic needs. Lord, help us to look honestly at water use in our societies, at the structures we have in place for managing gifts such as water, and at the impact of our own choices on water use, [our 'water footprint'](#). Help our societies to move from a mindset of exploitation to grateful care, to honour the sources from which water comes and the ecosystems that depend on them, and to distribute access to water in ways [that further justice](#) and peace.

A casualty of war

Waters often suffer in conflict. Pope Leo [writes, in his message for 1 September](#), *"War leaves wounds that extend far beyond the battlefield. It claims lives, tears families apart and forces millions to flee their homes, thereby deepening fear, injustice and division.... War also leaves behind social and ecological destruction that endures for generations. Moreover, the interaction between armed conflicts and environmental degradation often creates a vicious cycle, which destroys ecosystems, contaminates essential resources, such as air and water, and undermines food security. This fuels poverty, inequality, and new social tensions that can contribute to the emergence of further conflicts."* We pray for the healing of waters damaged by conflict and for all who, because of conflict, cannot access the water they need. We pray for peace, for the renewal of hearts and for *"a world in which the energies currently invested in war are directed toward integral human development, to overcoming poverty, protecting human dignity and reconciling divided peoples."*

Choking the waters with waste

"We have choked the seas with our waste ..." Negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty, an ["international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment"](#) continue. But while the mandate was for a treaty that would address the full lifecycle of plastics, a small group of countries appears to be continuing to block efforts to include provisions that would reduce new plastic production or restrict the use of harmful chemicals within it. This past month, a newly appointed Chair released a reference paper for the negotiations – but environmental campaigners [fear it represents movement backwards](#), as parts of the text relating to plastic production, plastics and human health, and harmful chemicals are shown as contested. Lord, our oceans and beaches attest to the need for a strong treaty. We pray for [corporate lobbyists](#) and blocking countries to have less influence on the process and text, and for genuine progress towards a strong agreement.

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Waters and floods

"We have ... watched the warming tides rise in judgment." During August, [the world's oceans outside the polar regions had their highest ever average surface temperature](#); this followed the [highest recorded July temperatures](#). Driven by El Nino on top of overall heating, such temperatures contribute to sea-level rise and can help fuel intense storms. They also set the stage for more localised marine heat waves, [which threaten marine ecosystems](#). The impacts of sea-level rise damage communities and infrastructure worldwide; they fall particularly heavily on countries like Bangladesh, where much of the country is close to sea-level: a [recent film stated](#) that every day over 2,000 people forced from their homes by climate impacts come to Bangladesh's capital. We pray for everyone affected by rising seas, especially communities and countries who have contributed little to global heating.

Rising heat also lies behind flood threats in mountainous regions, where [melting permafrost and glaciers can cause floods and landslides](#). We pray for all affected by the catastrophic glacial collapse and flash flooding in Nepal and Tibet. May those who continue to seek survivors know God's strength; those who mourn know God's comfort; and those who have lost livelihoods and homes be given what they need to rebuild. The Foreign Minister of Tibet has [called for a concerted 'global effort'](#) to tackle the climate change that threatens the region, as well as [progress on funding for loss and damage](#) – a matter of justice when people who contribute so little to climate change suffer so much from the impacts. We pray for progress in both areas.

Drought

"We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow."

Wildfires [are burning across drought-stricken Indonesia](#); the [Panama Canal is cutting transits](#), while across Europe, crops have withered, [river traffic has slowed](#), and [nuclear power plants have slowed](#) or shut down [as rivers ran dry](#). In Puerto Rico [water is being rationed](#); in Kingston, Jamaica, municipal water is turned off for 12 hours a day. We pray for all who are affected by drought, especially those who lack access, as a result, to adequate food. Forgive us our part in creating these conditions, Lord.

Seeking grace to restore

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

Signs of restoration

- On the 30th of September, A Rocha UK's EcoChurch programme will celebrate its 10th anniversary. 9,000 congregations are registered, and of roughly 4,000 who responded to [a recent survey](#), 88% were managing land for wildlife; 78% had made the decision to invest their funds ethically and/or prayed regularly for environmental concerns, over 1,250 were engaging with government on environmental issues, and over 900 prayed for the environment each week. We thank God for the programme and the churches involved, and pray that they may continue to work at healing relationships among God, humanity, and creation.
- Many of us will have heard people say "But how can we make an impact, if China and the US aren't doing anything?" So it's good to be able to share that for the first time, [solar power has topped coal as China's largest source of power capacity](#), while [the rise of electric vehicles in China has likely saved 300,000 lives that would have been lost to pollution](#). Meanwhile Leah Stokes shows that despite the Trump Administration's constant efforts to promote fossil fuels and kill clean energy, [elements of Biden's major climate legislation remain in place, including 90% of the clean energy-related manufacturing it promoted](#). Behind that statistic are committed individuals and also judges who have limited the attacks on climate policy. We pray that progress towards a just transition can continue in both countries.

The Season of Creation prayer closes ...

May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.